

NEW PARKS NEWS

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A Publication of the Arlington Parks & Recreation Department
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UPDATE ON THE PARKS, RECREATION, & OPEN SPACE MASTER PLAN

To date, Parks Department staff and the 14-member City Council-appointed Citizens' Master Plan Committee have reviewed and discussed the following: issues and opportunities facing the City and the park system, progress on the existing master plan priorities, and the Parks Department's new vision, mission, and strategic objectives. Major issues and opportunities that are likely to affect this master plan include:

Issues

- City's limitation on the issuance of capital debt
- City's rapid growth south of I20
- Department's capital maintenance backlog of more than \$50 million
- Park security / vandalism
- Fewer park development grant opportunities
- Declining park fees
- Availability and cost of park land
- Need to remain progressive while still meeting basic park service levels

Opportunities

- Improve asset management and focus on renovation of ageing infrastructure
- Expand partnerships with private, public, and non-profit organizations
- Continue popular linear park acquisition and development
- Provide environmental leadership in park maintenance and development
- Demonstrate value of Parks Department to City's economic development and overall quality of life

(Continued on page 2 - see "Master Plan")



Randol Mill Family Aquatic Center Is Waiting For You!

Randol Mill Family Aquatic Center opened for public swim on June 29, 2002 after four weeks of delay due to the wet spring weather.



The brand new facility is located in Randol Mill Park at 1924 W. Randol Mill Park Road. The center features a 25-foot water slide, kids pool and tot area, leisure pool with current channel, vortex, and other interactive play toys! It is also available for after hour facility rentals, and day time pavilion rentals. A ribbon cutting ceremony celebration was to take place on June 30, 2002, but was postponed due to weather. The Grand opening celebration was held on July 21st with over 1054 people in attendance. Radio Disney entertained the crowd throughout the day and a rubber duck race was held in the current channel which captured everyone's competitive side. Prior to the opening Mayor Elzie Odom and Councilman Dr. Robert Cluck made remarks with a countdown to open the gates. The pool will remain open through September 2 to help you beat the heat for the rest of the summer.

For additional information call
James Fish, Park Planner, at 817-459-5489 or
Kym Lange, Aquatics Program Manager, at 817-459-5481.



Park Design Underway at Don Misenhimer Park

Design is underway for Don Misenhimer Park located at 201 E. Lonesome Dove Trail in southeast Arlington. Park staff have been working with landscape architect Oliver Windham to finalize the program and develop a conceptual site plan. A public meeting to solicit input on the park master plan is scheduled for August 2002 with neighborhood residents. The first phase of development is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2003.

For more information, please contact De'Onna Garner, Assistant Park Planner, at 817-459-6937.

TWO PARK DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS COMPLETE

Two neighborhood park development projects are now complete and in use by the public. **Jake Langston Park** on 4080 W. Mayfield Road was acquired in 1979, but remained largely undeveloped until now. "We have finally been able to provide some quality recreational opportunities for the public," reports Graduate Park Planner De'Onna Garner, "The playground fits nicely into a wooded hillside. It is the focal piece in the park." The project also added a parking lot, area lighting and landscaping. Future development will include a trail system and picnic facilities.

California Lane Park located at 1931 California Lane is also now open and in use. "We have created a wonderful experience in this park," boasts Assistant Director Gordon Robertson, "It offers the widest variety of park improvements, including a traditional playground, water play area, hike/bike trail, basketball court, fishing pond, and practice soccer field." Planners also worked closely with the Engineering Services Department to correct flooding problems in neighboring subdivisions. The pond and soccer field store water in heavy rains. After rains subside, floodwaters are slowly released at a safe rate, helping to alleviate downstream flooding.



"Who caught the biggest fish?" The children had a great time at the fishing tournament at the California Lane Park Opening.



("Master Plan" - Continued from page)

While addressing these issues and opportunities will be critical in rating the effectiveness of the master plan and, thus, the future success of the Department, many of the difficult choices will boil down to the prioritization of available funds between renovation of existing facilities, development of new facilities, and acquisition of new park land.

Where previous master plans have pursued relatively aggressive acquisition and development agendas, it appears that a more balanced approach between new development and "taking care of what we already have" (renovation projects) will likely be an important theme of this new master plan.

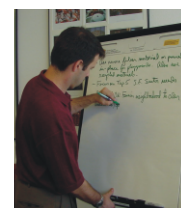
For more information, please contact Gordon Robertson, Assistant Director of Planning, at 817-459-5492

Park Design to Begin for Gene Schrickel Jr. Park



Design is scheduled to begin for Gene Schrickel Jr. Park located at the corner of Colt Lane and Carol Lane in southwest Arlington. Park staff have selected the firm of Schrickel Rollins and Associates for a proposal for program, design and construction plans. A public citizens design team will be assembled to provide input into the design of the neighborhood park. The group's primary focus will be to identify the most appropriate improvement needs for this park site. A Texas Parks and Wildlife Grant of \$500,000 has been awarded to the project. Land acquisition for the project is complete and the first phase of development is scheduled to begin in the spring/summer of 2003.

For more information, please contact James Fish, Park Planner, at 817-459-5489.



Left Photo: Gordon Robertson, Assistant Director of Parks and Rec. Dept., documents citizen's input from one of the recent public meetings.

Bottom Photo: De'Onna Garner, Graduate Park Planner, explains long-range development impact.

